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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord of Life, as Senators deal with today's challenges, purge their hearts of anything that does not honor You. Remove from them a spirit of division, uniting them in the common task of doing what is best for our Nation and world. When they are tempted to doubt, steady their faith. When they feel despair, infuse them with Your hope. When they don't know what to do, open their minds to a wisdom that can change and shape our times according to Your plan. Replace any cynicism with civility, empowering them to trust You more fully, live for You more completely, and serve You more willingly.

You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK L. PRYOR led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, July 19, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. PRYOR thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Today we will be on H.R. 2669, the education reconciliation measure. There are 10 hours of time remaining for that matter. Two amendments were offered yesterday, one by Senator MURKOWSKI, another one by Senator KENNEDY. We will vote on those amendments at around 12 o'clock today.

For this bill, we have two of the most competent managers we could have, Senators KENNEDY and ENZI. It is a great picture for the country: one Senator from the State of Massachusetts, who certainly is known worldwide, and Senator ENZI, who may not be known worldwide, but the Senator from Wyoming is one of the most gentle, competent people I have ever worked with. He is a wonderful man. I know the relationship he and Senator KENNEDY have developed will make it possible to get through this with a minimum amount of strife. I admire both of those men and how they have worked on this bill.

The managers expect other amendments to be offered. As Members are aware, once all time is expired, Mem-

bers can still offer germane amendments with no debate time and have them voted on. I am hopeful there will not be a vote-aroma at the end of the time and Members who have amendments will work with the managers to get those amendments considered during the time limit.

There is no reason we cannot complete this bill by sometime this afternoon.

On the Homeland Security appropriations bill, it is hard to comprehend, but I had to file cloture on that bill, a bill to fund homeland security for our country. There was an objection to our moving to that bill. I hope an agreement is reached where we would not have to vote on cloture tomorrow, which is set. I hope we can complete action on this bill early next week.

SCHIP. I heard on the radio this morning—I had not read the President's letter to the Finance Committee members that he was going to veto the bill. The statement of policy on vetoing bills, it seems they all fit the same pattern. Anytime it helps people who are incapable of helping themselves, then the President is anxious to step in.

I heard on the radio today he wanted to veto this legislation because he felt it should be all handled by the private sector. We would not need this legislation if things were handled by the private sector. We have millions of children in America—not in some other country—millions of children in America who have no health care. That is what SCHIP is about.

So I appreciate the work being done on a bipartisan basis by Senators GRASSLEY and BAUCUS and HATCH and ROCKEFELLER, the senior members of that committee and respective subcommittee. They have come up with a bipartisan bill. It is not a bill that everyone is elated about, but it is a good bill that will help provide health insurance for as many as 6 million children. It is too bad that I assume we are going

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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